Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01093 312358Z

15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 H-02 /020 W
---------- 087884
R 311500Z OCT 75
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2473
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1093

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, IZ
SUBJECT: REPORT TO SENATOR EASTLAND ON JACK STUART VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 181119; (B) STATE 247084; (C) BAGHDAD 906 (NOTAL)
(D) BAGHDAD 983 (NOTAL): (E) KILLOUGH SEPT 20 OFFICIAL-
INFORMAL TO NEA HARRY MONTGOMERY (WITH COPY OF REF D);
(F) BAGHDAD 999

1. ALERTED TO HIS PENDING ARRIVAL BY REFS A AND B
AND BY SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS, USINT DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE
TIME TO MR. STUART'S TRIP. IN ADDITION TO APPOINTMENTS
SOUGHT REF A, USINT ARRANGED FOR MR. STUART TO MEET WITH
SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE (MISSISSIPPIE NATIVE) OF US-CANADIAN
CONSTRUCTION FIRM BANISTER-PRICE AND WITH IRAQI COMPANIES
WHICH HAD WORKED FEW MONTHS EARLIER WITH MISSISSIPPIE
TRADE MISSION. WE ALSO INTRODUCED HIM TO CHAIRMAN OF
BUNNIA GROUP OF COMPANIES (IRAQ'S LARGEST PRIVATE
SECTOR CONGLOMERATE). PROMINENT IRAQI BUSINESSMAN
HISHAM ARAIM INTRODUCED MR. STUART TO PERSONS IN A
POSITION TO BE HELPFUL ON HIS AGRICULTURAL PROPOSALS.
SINCE MR. STUART WAS IN BAGHDAD DURING PERIOD OF LIGHTER
THAN USUAL WORKLOAD, USINT EMPLOYEES WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON
NUMBER OF HIS CALLS.

2. PROBABLY BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRAINING
CENTER IN MORTON, MISSISSIPPI IS STILL IN PLANNING STAGE
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01093 312358Z

RATHER THAN A GOING CONCERN, MR. SUART DID NOT GENERATE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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GREAT DEAL OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS PROJECT. PROPOSAL IS NOT, HOWEVER, DEAD AND ONCE CENTER IS ESTABLISHED AND HAS MADE ITS REPUTATION, IRAQ MIGHT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SENDING STUDENTS.

3. MUCH OF LATTER PART OF MR. STUART'S VISIT WAS SPENT DISCUSSING AND THEN NEGOTIATING CONSULTANCY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BUNNIA GROUP (REF F). USINT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME HELPING MR. STUART ON THIS PHASE OV VISIT AND ACCOMPANIED MR. STUART ON CALL AT BRITISH EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO DISCUSS PUNNIA GROUP'S BACK-GROUND.

4. RECENT USINT CONTACTS WITH BUNNIA EXECUTIVES CONFIRM VERY POSITIVE IMPACT MR. STUART MADE ON THEIR GROUP CHAIRMAN, WHO IS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF GOI MINISTER OF INDUSTRY/ACTING MINITER OF PLANNING, TAHA AL-JEZRAWI. IN LETTER USINT RECEIVED OCTOBER 21 MR. STUART SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO BAGHDAD AROUND DECEMBER 1, 1975 WITH TWO TO FIVE OTHER MISSISSIPPI BUSINESSMEN.

5. MR. STUART'S FIRST VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE HAD EXCELLENT RESULTS. IRAQIS WHO MET HIM HAVE SPOKEN HIGHLY OF HIS FRIENDLINESS, FRANKNESS AND ABILITY TO GRASP QUICKLY THEIR CONCEENS ANDINTERESTS. IF ALL CONTINUES TO GO AS WELL AS IT HAS BEGUN, THE POSITIVE RESULTS FOR US-IRAQI TRADE SHOULD BE IMPRESSIVE. WILEY

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Disposition Remarks:
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